



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**DENNIS WILSON, JR. APPOINTED 2021 CHAIR OF PRSA'S HEALTH ACADEMY**  
***Seventeen Outstanding Healthcare PR Professionals Named to Executive Committee***

**NEW YORK, March 5, 2021** – Dennis Wilson, Jr., an accomplished healthcare communications and marketing leader, has been installed as 2021 Chair of PRSA's Health Academy. Wilson, of Basking Ridge, N.J., is Vice President of Strategic Marketing, Northern Region and Creative Services, at RWJBarnabas Health, New Jersey's largest health care and hospital system. He has been a member of PRSA since 1999.

"I am incredibly honored to serve as 2021 Chair of PRSA's Health Academy with this outstanding group of professionals from across the nation, focusing on elevating the profession and providing value to members," said Wilson. "Our annual conference, which will be virtual this April, will be outstanding, and I am overwhelmingly proud that we have established a Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee."

Wilson's tenure with RWJBarnabas Health has included a variety of roles including Director of Strategic Marketing. He has also served as Managing Director of The Marathon Group, Director of Marketing and Public Relations at Monmouth Medical Center in Long Branch and Director of Marketing and Public Relations at Clara Maass Medical Center in Belleville. Wilson also served as an adjunct professor in the Department of Communications at Seton Hall University. Additionally, he is on the Board of Directors for PRSA's New Jersey Chapter.

Over his career, Wilson and his teams have created numerous award-winning campaigns, strategies and tactics. Among the many distinctions are: Telly Awards, PRSA's NJ Chapter's Pyramid Award and Best of Show in 2019, AAMC's GIA Award of Excellence Honorable Mention and the American Hospital Association NOVA Awards.

As Health Academy Chair, Wilson leads the Section's 17-member executive committee which is responsible for reaching, informing and engaging the Section's more than 700 public relations and communications members from across the United States. He also encourages new members to join and benefit from the Section's educational programs and networking opportunities.

**The 2021 Executive Committee members are:**

**Marina Renneke, APR**, Corporate Communications Manager, Blue Yonder Phoenix, Ariz. (Immediate past chair)

**Amy Atwood**, Head, Vaccine Communications, Takeda Vaccine Business Unit, Cambridge, Mass.

**Kerting Baldwin, APR**, Administrative Director, Corporate Communications, Memorial Healthcare System, Hollywood, Fla.

**Jason Carlton, APR**, Manager, Marketing & Communications, Intermountain Healthcare, Murray, Utah.

**Ronna Charles**, Director of Marketing and Communications, WellStar Health System, Marietta, Ga.

**Cindy Dorfner**, Chief of Communications, Phoenix VA Health Care System, Phoenix, Ariz.  
**Ken Inchausti**, Senior Director, Corporate Communications, Novo Nordisk, Plainsboro, N.J.  
**Mega Jewell**, Director of Communications, Mega Sugianto Inc., LA, Calif.  
**Ellen Beth Levitt**, Senior Communications and PR Consultant and 2016 Health Academy Chair, Dallas, Texas.  
**Nancee M. Long**, Director of Communications, Columbia Memorial Hospital, Astoria, Ore.  
**Cynthia Brooks Nickerson**, Media Specialist, Institute for Public Strategies-Los Angeles Office, Culver City, Calif.  
**Lisa Nguyen**, Special Projects and Public Relations Officer, Delta Dental of Michigan, Ohio and Indiana, Okemos, Mich.  
**Ilana Ostrin**, Communications Director Zero-The End of Prostate Cancer, Washington, D.C.  
**Keisha Ricks**, President/CEO, Keisha Monique Public Relations, Annapolis, Md.  
**Carrie Strehlau**, Sr. Social Media Specialist, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Memphis, Tenn.  
**Alison True**, PIO, COVID Vaccination Task Force, State of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wis.  
**Rachel Tyree**, MPH, Communications & Community Relations Director, County of Los Angeles, Calif.

Members of the Health Academy have access to the latest best practices and industry trends. A popular feature of the Health Academy is its annual conference that highlights national interest speakers and emerging trends in healthcare PR. Additionally, the Health Academy provides educational and career development opportunities through ongoing teleseminars, webinars and provides a forum for professionals to discuss and share best practices in order to stay current and connected.

### **About PRSA**

The Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) is the nation’s leading professional organization serving the communications community. PRSA is the principal advocate for industry excellence and ethical conduct and provides members lifelong learning opportunities and leading-edge resources to enhance professional connections and support them at every stage of their career. With nearly 30,000 members, PRSA is collectively represented in all 50 states by more than 110 Chapters and 14 Professional Interest Sections, and on nearly 375 college and university campuses through its student organization, the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA). For more information, please visit [www.prsa.org](http://www.prsa.org).

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